



## GIVING PREPARES WAY FOR 2009

### El Porvenir

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### Letter from the Board President

Dear El Porvenir friends and supporters,

This has been a fast six months since El Porvenir selected Denver as our new central U.S. office, hired full time staff and witnessed Carole Harper's retirement from her position as President. I went from the role of Vice President to President. Carole left a great legacy and vibrant organization to carry forward and 2008 has been a good year for the organization.

In the last months we have received several major grants from churches and foundations with the largest single sum coming from Water for People (\$250,000.) That support has allowed us to start in an entirely new area in northern

Nicaragua, Wiwili, not far from the Honduran border. This is an area with few roads and a major river, the Rio Coco. It was also an area hotly contested during the contra war (I was there in 1987). Another significant grant has come from the Boston based Ansara Fund who gave us funding for board and staff development. In addition to adding Wiwili, we have also continued to expand our work in all of the other areas we have been serving. This expansion and the need to continue to serve our original areas have only been possible through the generous and continued support of you and many other "Friends of El Porvenir". In 1990 our budget was

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Please check our website after Feb. 15, 2009 to view our Annual Report.

#### Bequests:

Consider El Porvenir in your legacy planning.  
Contact Mary Ellen Carlow,  
Development Director  
at 303-861-1499

#### The Spirit of Holiday Giving

comes alive when you donate to EP in honor of someone dear. Make a donation to EP in someone's honor. We will send a card telling them of your gift. Mail your donation, printing their Name and Address by Dec. 12. We will do the rest with a big Thank You!

### The View from Here - Nicaragua

Dear Friends,

It is hurricane season, and this is always a somewhat stressful time for Nicaragua (and for regions in North America as well). Even without the force of the hurricanes, heavy rains often provoke flooding here and this year has been no exception. As you can see in this photo I took, the dusty roads of Nicaragua can quickly become rivers without warning during down-pours; I saw people carrying all their worldly belongings on their heads, trying to escape the rain. And this is in town; can you imagine how it is for the people in the rural areas? In several places, rivers have overflowed and flooded several areas where we work. Luckily, none of our projects were damaged, although we did lose some materials in one project that was in



Flooding in León as Rob returned from El Sauce last month. "I was driving on these streets!"

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## El Porvenir Makes a Difference

- El Sauce, Nicaragua

In the municipality of El Sauce, Nicaragua, lies a community called Nueva Espana #2. El Porvenir has implemented a hand dug well and 36 latrines which have benefited over 60 individuals in this community. Prior to El Porvenir's help family members walked ¼ mile each way simply to obtain drinking water and most had no access to any sort of bathroom. Because of the unsanitary conditions the children were often sick with diarrhea and affected by malaria.

Community members Jose Florencio Martinez, Paula Martinez, Rosa Elena Urbina, Martha Luz Vivas, Ismar Meza Delgado and Ismelda Reyes further explain: "Most of the people in Nueva Espana #2 work as field workers. The majority of those over 40 do not know how to read or write. Some people had provisional latrines and some just went to the bathroom outside. We don't have a school here so the children journey over one mile to go to school in other towns. El Porvenir is the only organization that helps us here.

"We feel a sense of relief now that we have latrines and a water well: there is more hygiene and we feel healthier. We all use the latrines and wash our hands afterwards. The hand dug well benefits 12 families (38 individuals) and in the dry season it benefits three additional families (22 individuals.) We are so happy now that we have latrines and clean drinking water."

-Translated by Alexis Gleason

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## Letter from the Board President

\$10,000; this year it is \$1,078,000. In 1990 we had no staff, only volunteers, now we have 18 Nicaraguans, two full time and two part time in the U.S., as well as our Canadian Executive Director, Rob Bell, who works full time in Managua.

As a board member for many years (since 1990), my wife, Teddy, and I have been committed financial supporters of El Porvenir. With the current financial situation in our country and around the world, it might be a time when you feel that you cannot give us as much as you have in the past. But now is the time to continue and even increase your commitment to clean water, sanitation, reforestation, fuel efficient stoves, and health education that EP does in rural Nicaragua.



We in the United States, Canada and Europe are blessed with clean water and sanitation that usually we take for granted. Via El Porvenir we can share our good fortune with others for whom clean, accessible water is both a great need and a path to a better future. Our lives may be stressed at this time, but now as the year draws to a close is a great time to give thanks. Above and beyond your generous end of the year contribution, I am asking you to consider a commitment of \$1 a day for clean water and sanitation

for EP. You can give it via your checking account on a monthly basis. By spreading your donation over 12 months it becomes easier to plan and helps El Porvenir's cash flow every single month. If you can afford \$2 per day or \$5 per day or even \$10 per day, that would really be great. As one fellow once said to me, "Think of what you want to give, then double that number." Cool!!!

I have been and continue to be an enthusiastic fundraiser for a mission I care deeply about. Also, I think that most of us feel blessed in our lives. El Porvenir provides a wonderful way to give thanks and express appreciation by directly helping others. Each donor can be assured that 82 cents of every dollar is used directly on El Porvenir programs.

So whether you send a single check each year or will help by spreading it out via a monthly bank draft, consider yourself asked and know that you have my sincere thanks on behalf of the board and staff. If you cannot give or cannot give as much as you would like, please do help El Porvenir by spreading the word to friends, co-workers, groups and family members so that they too will have the opportunity to make a great difference.

May God bless you, EP and our world during this special season.

Peace and Joy,  
Ray Finney  
President of the Board

## Wish List

Ink cartridges HP #21, 22, 27, 28, 96, 97 printer cartridges  
Computer and/or laptop for Nicaraguan/US offices  
Digital theodolite (surveying equipment)  
GPS units (Garmin MAP CX60 if possible) (*received one so far, thanks!*)  
Airline miles donated for staff trips (*thanks here too!*)  
Digital cameras (3MP and up) to take project pictures  
Winch for trucks

## End of Year Gifts Help Us Begin a New Year

Mary Ellen Carlow, Development Director

All nonprofits look to the end of year contributions as they begin to plan for the upcoming year. The generosity of our annual end of year donations allows El Porvenir to march ahead into the next year with a sense of both gratitude and commitment to do our best to honor the trust you, our valued donor, have placed in El Porvenir. Our projects in the rural villages of Nicaragua depend on the kindness of our "family" of donors. Without your support we could not hope to accomplish what we set out to do: provide clean water through the construction of hand dug wells; deliver more efficient cook stoves, thus reducing the reoccurring respiratory afflictions and eye impairments that come from a lifetime of cooking in smoky quarters;

supply improved sanitation, a cornerstone of improved health for each family in the villages we serve, deliver hygiene and health education, thus revealing methods of keeping healthy; reforestation that provides trees of both fruit bearing and lumber use and in turn gives the people of a village a way to see into their future. What they see and experience in their daily lives is that they are healthier and more empowered. The skills that they learn by working together to obtain these important basic needs goes a long way to advance their newly acquired collaborative abilities and self esteem.

Donors...this is your great contribution to the mission of El Porvenir. You are the ones we look to as we strive to bring a

better standard of living to so many (over 86,000 to date.) Poverty still has a grip on Nicaragua and we have much work to do in the years ahead. In this land of contrasts where the beauty of the landscape exists in juxtaposition to environmental devastation and where people's desperation is buffered by hope, we strive to do all we can, as we have since 1990. When you contribute to El Porvenir you walk hand in hand with us each step of the way as together we improve the lives of a kind and gracious people in a beautiful land.

Thank you for all you do for El Porvenir. Warm wishes for a joyful holiday season and a peaceful, prosperous, healthy new year.

(Continued from page 1) **View from Here** progress. Thankfully, the end of October will mark the end of hurricane season, and the remainder of this year can be dedicated to finishing up those last projects.

Wiwilí, located in northern Nicaragua and our newest region, had a slow start at the beginning of this year: getting the office set up, getting staff hired, identifying projects and communities. The process of getting the word out to communities often contributes to the slow start of opening a new region. However, it is very important to us to maintain our policy of only working on projects that the community itself has asked us for. All these activities have consumed a lot of time but it has been worth it. We now have a lot of projects lined up to keep us busy for many years. This region has a large indigenous population, especially along the Coco River and the Honduran border. We have no previous experience working with indigenous populations here in Nicaragua, so this will be a wonderful new learning experience for us.

The US office has now officially launched, after having a successful open house in September. Around 40 people came to the event and discovered our cozy office in Denver. There was even a demo of a working rope pump, thanks to our dedicated local Friends of El Porvenir group. As I type, I am on my way to our annual Board meeting, which will be hosted in our new permanent Colorado home.

As of the last report, the Water and Sanitation program was to receive funding for 5 drilled wells from the Japanese Embassy. Now, we have received that funding and practically completed all 5 wells. We also have completed some studies and designs that will allow us to start some gravity flow water systems in November. Reforestation has been working on the improved stoves during this rainy season. The Education program has been able to progress although in October they have had to postpone some workshops due to heavy rains. By the end of the year, they will have trained 228 local community educators to teach preventative health and hygiene in their own communities.

Looking ahead to 2009, we are a little concerned by the state of the world economy, as you no doubt are as well. *When economic concerns affect other nations, the effect seems magnified in Nicaragua.* Families here are stretched thin trying to meet their basic needs as it is. Rising prices place more demand on them and on our budget as we endeavor to help them.

We hope, with your help, that our fundraising will go well in spite of the world economy so we will be able to take on many new projects and help many new communities to achieve their dream of clean water and better health.

Sincerely,  
Rob Bell  
Executive Director



**El Porvenir**

Clean Water for Nicaragua

1420 Ogden St., #204  
Denver, Colorado 80218

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Corporate matching gifts: If your company participates in this program, you can double your contribution. Please remember El Porvenir for your corporate giving and help us provide Clean Water for Nicaragua. We thank you!

Donating made easy: You can contribute to El Porvenir from the comfort of your home or office when you go to [www.elporvenir.org](http://www.elporvenir.org). Click on "Make a donation" and you'll be able to contribute either a recurring donation or a one time donation.

**Our next newsletter will be sent electronically** in order to save money and to be future oriented.

**Please send your email address to us at:**

[info@elporvenir.org](mailto:info@elporvenir.org)

We will include you and keep you up to date with El Porvenir happenings. If you do not have email call us at 303-861-1499 and we will send you a printed copy.

### Thanks

Thank you to the **Colorado Friends of El Porvenir** for a great evening on Oct. 18. The 7th Annual Fundraising Dinner was a great success.

**Portland Friends of EP** will host a table at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mindful Gifts Bazaar on Dec. 13, 10 AM to 4 PM at Bridgeport United Church of Christ, 621 NE 76<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, Oregon, 503 258-0992.

## 2009 Trips

to Nicaragua with El Porvenir

**Jan 10-24 Water/Sanitation –FULL**

**Jan 31-Feb 7 Lavaderos –FULL**

**Feb 15-23 Birding Tour**

**Feb 12-18 Latrines –Terrabona**

**Feb 27-Mar 5 Lavaderos –FULL**

**March 8-17 Cultural Tour: Poetry, Pottery and Music of Nicaragua**

**April 13-19 Reforestation**

**April 26–May 1 Water/Sanitation**

**June 6-14 open**

**June 20-29 Reforestation—**

**Intergenerational Elderhostel –Dario**

**July 11-20 Reforestation—**

**Intergenerational Elderhostel— Camoapa**

See website for up-to-date information.